

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5156

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, WZ, SF

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND BORDER SECURITY

REF: (A) MBABANE 1204, (B) MBABANE 2131, (C) MBABANE 2150

1. DURING WEEK OF JUNE 26 EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED POLITICAL OFFICER FROM AMCONSULATE DURBAN ON TRIP TO THE INGWAVUMA-NDUMO AREA OF SOUTH AFRICA TO VISIT AMERICAN MISSIONARY STATIONS. THIS IS THE REGION WHERE SWAZILAND, MOZAMBIQUE, AND SOUTH AFRICA MEET. AS PART OF TRIP, INFORMAL CONTACT WAS MADE WITH SECURITY OFFICIALS IN AREA. FULL REPORT WILL BE SENT FROM DURBAN.

2. THE CONTRADICTION NOTED IN REF B, PARA 3 CONCERNING SAG SECURITY ACTIVITIES INSIDE SWAZILAND'S BORDERS WAS CLARIFIED. IN DISCUSSION WITH RSA DEFENSE FORCE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS IN AREA, HE STATED THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE HAD NOT BEEN DOING ANY PATROL WORK
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INSIDE SWAZILAND'S BODFERS. AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, SAG SECURITY POLICE HAD NOT BEEN REGULARLY PATROLLING INSIDE SWAZILAND EITHER, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SPORADIC SECURITY OPERATIONS.

3. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT ANY DEFENSE FORCE OR SECURITY POLICE OPERATIONS THAT DID GO INTO SWAZILAND

HAVE BEEN CURTAILED SINCE THE SWAZI ARMY BEGAN REGULAR PATROLS IN THE INGWAVUMA LAVUMISA AREA (REF C). THE DEFENSE FORCE OFFICER STATED THAT THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE GOS PATROLLING ITS OWN BORDER AS THEY RECOGNIZE THAT SWAZI ARMY PATROLS WILL REDUCE LIBERATION MOVEMENT INFILTRATION FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND REDUCE VILENCE IN MNGOMEZULU CLAN FEUD.

4. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS AN OVERT ATTEMPT BY SAG TO INTIMIDATE GOS INTO TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE PAC WAS ALSO CLARIFIED. THE TANKS AND ARMORED VEHICLES SEEN OPERATING RIGHT ON THE SWAZI BORDER IN THE INGWAVUMA AREA AND CITED BY GOS OFFICIALS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THEIR DECISION TO CRACKDOWN ON PAC ACTIVITY (REF A) WERE PART OF A REGULAR MILITARY EXERCISE PROGRAM IN THE AREA. THE DEFENSE FORCE OFFICER STATED THAT THE EXERCISE WAS NOT AIMED AT GETTING GOS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PAC. IF ANYTHING, IT WAS TO INTIMIDATE THE FEUDING MNGOMEZULU CLAN FACTIONS INTO INACTIVITY.

5. AS A RESULT OF THE MNGOMEZULU CLAN FEUD VILENCE IN THE REGION THE INGWAVUMA BORDER GATE BETWEEN SWAZILAND AND SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN CLOSED. SOME PELPLE IN THE AREA (MOSTLY ETHNIC SWAZIS) HAVE CONTINUED TO ENTER SWAZILAND ILLEGALLY NEAR THE INGWAVUMA GATE RATHER THAN MAKE THE LONG TRIP TO THE GOLELA-LAVUMISA BORDER GATE. MEDICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONNEL AT SOME OF THE MISSION STATIONS REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN FREQUENT INCIDENTS OF BLACKS, WHO HAD ENTERED SWAZILAND ILLEGALLY, COMING BACK INTO SOUTH AFRICA AFTER HAVING BEEN ROUGHED UP BY SWAZI ARMY PATROLS.

6. DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26, THE SWAZI ARMY ARRESTED FIVE SOUTH AFRICAN SURVEYORS WHO HAD ENTERED SWAZILAND NEAR LAVUMISA WITHOUT PASSPORTS. THE SURVEYORS WERE REMANDED ON BAIL OF R70.00 EACH AND ARE DUE TO COME TO TRAIL ON JULY 25. DURING THE SAME WEEK THE SAG SECURITY POLICE ARRESTED TWO SWAZI SOLDIERS WHO HAD ENTERED SOUTH AFRICA WHILE ON PATROL IN THE INGWAVUMA AREA. THE SOLDIERS WERE ACQUITTED BUT LATER RE-ARRESTED FOR REMAINING IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY WERE RELEASED ON BAIL AND WILL BE TRIED AGAIN ON JULY 17.

7. THESE RECENT INCIDENTS, AS WELL AS THE DEATH DUE TO PNEUMONIA OF A GOS OFFICIAL IN CUSTODY IN RSA FOR A TRAFFIC OFFENSE, MARK A LOW IN RSA-SWAZILAND RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, THESE INCIDENTS IN NO WAY THREATEN THE TACIT PRO-SOUTH AFRICAN STANCE OF THE GOS

NOR DO WE EVEN EXPECT THE GOS TO ENTER INTO A VERBAL
BATTLE WITH THE SAG AS HAPPENS FREQUENTLY WITH LESOTHO
AND OCCASIONALLY WITH BOTSWANA.
WACHOB

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